

Appl. No. 09/835,898
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 22 April 2003

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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended) Method for providing a surface of an article with a decoration or text, ~~characterized in that comprising:~~

transferring at least a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer having a cholesteric reflection band ~~is transferred~~ onto the surface of the article in a transfer operation; and

region-wise modifying the cholesteric reflection band by exposure to UV radiation.

2 (Original) Method as claimed in Claim 1, in which the liquid crystal layer is transferred by means of a transfer foil which includes a carrier and the cholesteric liquid crystalline layer.

3 (Currently amended) Method as claimed in Claim 2, in which the cholesteric liquid crystalline layer is releasably disposed on the carrier. [[.]]

4-5 (Canceled)

6 (Currently amended) ~~Method as claimed in Claim 4 for providing a surface of an article with a decoration or text, comprising~~ transferring at least a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer having a cholesteric reflection band onto the surface of the article in a transfer operation, in which the region-wise modification of the cholesteric reflection band has been followed by a curing treatment of the cholesteric layer.

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7 (Currently amended) Method as claimed in Claim 2 for providing a surface of an article with a decoration or text, in which at least a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer is transferred onto the surface of the article in a transfer operation, the liquid crystal layer is transferred by means of a transfer foil which includes a carrier and the cholesteric liquid crystalline layer, and the transfer foil is arranged into an injection mold which has the form of the article and that a polymer melt is injected into the mold at elevated temperature.

8 (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 7, in which the transfer foil comprises a carrier foil on a surface of which are arranged a release layer, the cholesteric liquid crystalline layer, and an adhesive layer.

9 (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, in which the decoration is a holographic image.

10 (Currently amended) An article having transferred onto a surface of it a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer, comprising at least one single-film layer including a plurality of regions having cholesterically ordered material, in which pitches of the cholesterically ordered material of the plurality of regions differ from one another.

11 (Original) An article as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the layer comprises an holographic image.

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12 (Currently amended) A method for providing a surface of an article with a decoration or text as claimed in Claim 1, in which at least a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer is transferred onto the surface of the article in a transfer operation, and the material of the layer cholesteric liquid crystalline is oriented in such a way that the axis of the molecular helix of the cholesterically ordered material extends transversely to the layer, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

providing a layer of a cholesterically ordered material comprising a quantity of a convertible compound which in its non-converted and in its converted state determines the pitch of the cholesterically ordered material to a different extent, in which the conversion of said compound may be induced by radiation,

irradiating the layer in accordance with a desired pattern so that at least a part of the convertible compound in the irradiated parts of the layer is converted,

polymerizing and/or crosslinking the cholesterically ordered material to form a three-dimensional polymer.

13 (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that irradiation in accordance with step b is performed such that the irradiation dose is different for at least two different areas of the layer.